

Application No.: 10/708,645

Docket No.: 22171-00014-US

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-15 remain pending in the application. Claims 1 and 13 are independent. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended, and claims 5 and 16 have been canceled by this amendment.

Anticipation Rejection over Arai et al.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Arai et al. (US 4,965,730) is requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5, and independent claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 16, thus rendering the rejection moot.

Anticipation Rejection over Kimura et al.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3, and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kimura et al. (US 4,532,561) is requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5, and independent claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 16, thus rendering the rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 5-12 and 16 would be allowed if amended into independent form. In reliance upon the indication of allowable subject matter, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5, and independent claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 16. Claims 5 and 16 have been canceled.

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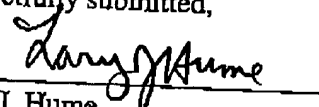
In view of the above amendment, applicant believes that each of pending claims 1-4 and 6-15 in this application is in immediate condition for allowance.

In the event the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues in this case, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number indicated below.

Although no fees are believed to be due with this amendment, for any fees that may be due during the pendency of this application, please charge CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185 under Order No. 22171-00014-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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